

CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): In combination, a heated driveway, walkway, patio, deck, ~~or stairs or the like~~ principally for outdoor use but usable as well for indoor use, the combination comprising a form suitably retained on an existing surface, at least one block disposed within the form, the block being molded principally of recycled rubber, thereby providing a frictional surface to prevent or minimize slipping, and electrical heating means for heating the block disposed between the block and the form, thereby providing substantially improved moisture absorption and evaporation along with substantially improved melting capacity for ice or snow, and the block being removably disposed in the form for substantially easier and convenient ~~repair, thus access to~~ the electrical heating means, thereby avoiding the necessity for digging up any concrete or masonry materials.

Claim 2 (original): The combination of claim 1, further comprising keying means between the at least one block and the form, thereby retaining the at least one block laterally in the form.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The combination of claim 1, wherein the electrical heating means comprises a conductive mesh.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The combination of claim 1, wherein the electrical heating means comprises conductive wires.

Claim 5 (original): The combination of claim 1, wherein the at least one block comprises a plurality of blocks arranged in a pattern.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The In combination of claim 1, wherein the block comprises

~~a molded sheet. adapted to be placed over a given surface of a driveway, walkway or patio, the sheet having a frictional top surface to prevent slipping when walking over the sheet, a heating means disposed between the given surface and the sheet, the sheet being sufficiently heavy so that no bonding between the sheet and the given surface is necessary, and so that the sheet may be merely lifted up to make repairs or replace the heating means without the necessity of digging up any concrete, asphalt, or the like.~~

Claims 7-10: Cancelled.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The combination of claim 1, further including 6, ~~wherein the sheet comprises a plurality of blocks arranged in a pattern.~~

Claims 12-20: Cancelled.

Claims 21 (currently amended): The method of installing a heated driveway, walkway, patio, deck, or stairs or the like, using the combination of claim 1.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The combination of claim 5, further including ~~In a heated driveway, walkway, patio, deck, stairs or the like, the improvement comprising a plurality of blocks disposed on top of the walkway, patio, deck, stairs or the like, each of the blocks being molded from a material providing a frictional top surface to prevent slipping means, for heating the blocks, thereby melting snow, freezing rain or ice on top of the blocks, and means for detecting and locating any fault in the electrical heating means that may subsequently occur, so that a block or a few blocks may be lifted up to provide access to the fault in the electrical heating means for a relatively quick and convenient repair thereto.~~

Claim 23: (cancelled).

Claim 24: (new) A non-slip heated driveway, walkway or patio, comprising a pan anchored to an existing driveway, walkway or patio, a heating means laid in the pan, at least one block laid in the pan over the heating means and separate therefrom, such that the heating means is merely sandwiched between the block and the pan and is not physically connected to the block or pan, keying means between the pan and the block, thereby frictionally retaining the block against substantial lateral movement of the block within the pan, the block having an upper non-slip surface for pedestrian safety, yet accommodating vehicular travel thereon, and the heating means melting snow or ice accumulating on the block, whereby in the event of a failure of the heating means, the block may be simply lifted up and out of the pan against the frictional retention of the keying means, thereby providing convenient and ready access to the heating means for repair or replacement thereof.